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1937

Annual Report

AND

VITAL STATISTICS

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF KNUTSFORD.

BY

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

M.B., Ch.B., Vict., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.L.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District, and also for
the Rural District of Bucklow; Medical Adviser to the
Bucklow Joint Hospital Board : etc.

KNUTSFORD:

Printed by J. W. JONES, Princess Street.

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Knutsford Urban District Council.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillors H. DARLINGTON, Chairman
E. S. THOMAS, J.P., Chairman of the Council
F. W. W. FLOYD
P. HARWOOD
F. JENNINGS
G. B. MASON
J. NORBURY
A. E. PERCY
W. SHAW
E. WALDRON
F. WILDGOOSE
R. WILSON

Co-opted Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare
Committee :

Mrs. W. H. FISHER	Mrs. G. B. MASON
Mrs. M. A. LEWIS	Mrs. M. E. WATT, J.P.

J. H. YATES, Clerk to the Council

†† A. T. BLEASE, M.B., CH.B. VICT., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.L.,
Medical Officer of Health

*† GEO. R. BUTLER, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.,
Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector, and Cleansing Superintendent

‡Part Time *Whole Time
†Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants.

The Urban District of Knutsford.

ANNUAL REPORT of Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

P A R T I.

Area of District, 2,491 Acres.

Height above Sea Level, 210 ft.

Estimated Population, 1937 : 6,343 (Registrar General).

Population, Census 1931 : 5,878.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,701.

Number of Working Class Houses, 1,314.

Rateable Value, £42,704.

Sum represented by a penny rate : Gross £177-18-8, Net £164

Birth Rate per 1,000 living, 11.

General Birth Rate (England and Wales), 14-9.

Death Rate per 1,000 living, 9-2.

General Death Rate (England and Wales), 12-4.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth, 0.

Deaths under one year in proportion to 1,000 Births, 14-2.

 " " " " " " England
 and Wales), 58.

Deaths from Cancer, 4.

Deaths from Measles, 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough, 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years old), 0.

The Total Number of deaths from all causes was 68, of which 1 was a child under one year old, and 37 were persons of over 65 years.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF OCCUPATIONS.

Private residents consisting of business people from the surrounding towns and cities, and persons who have retired from businesses and professions.

Persons employed in the building trades, general retail shopkeeping, hotel-keeping and agricultural workers. A laundry and a paper mill are the principal employers of labour in the District.

The social conditions are good, the District being partly residential.

PART II.—TABLES.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1937 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Gross Population.	Net Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.	TRANSFER-ABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
			Number.	Rate.		of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.	
								Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1911	5983	5124	113	22.0	113	54	4	9	80	63	12.3
1912	6027	5168	96	18.6	120	57	4	9	94	67	13.0
1913	5831	5212	120	23.0	105	51	4	8	67	58	10.8
1914	5734	5223	104	19.9	97	44	9	11	106	62	11.6
1915	5379	4917	94	19.1	109	61	14	6	64	62	12.3
1916	5814	4892	88	18.0	142	43	5	4	45	61	12.1
1917	5814	4892	73	14.9	151	97	7	5	68	61	12.1
1918	For Birth-rate 5299		68	12.47	112	59	10	3	45	63	13.25
	For Death-rate 4754										
1919	For Birth-rate 5044		76	14.78	113	56	10	1	13	67	13.8
	For Death-rate 4842										
1920	5035		107	21.2	100	44	9	7	65	65	12.9
1921	5390		101	18.6	117	52	11	8	79	65	12.0
1922	5433		100	18.3	106	48	14	8	80	72	13.2
1923	5448		105	19.2	104	61	10	1	9	53	9.7
1924	5482		84	15.3	131	62	7	6	71	76	13.8
1925	5499		69	12.5	89	49	5	4	57	45	8.3
1926	5507		76	13.8	118	70	7	4	52	55	9.9
1927	5443		81	14.6	123	76	8	8	98	55	10.1
1928	4945		69	13.9	136	81	6	6	86	61	12.3
1929	5148		68	13.2	169	108	8	2	29	69	13.4
1930	5846		84	14.2	134	92	8	5	59	50	8.5
1931	5900		96	15.2	168	98	9	9	93	79	13.3
1932	5685		90	15.8	139	80	6	4	44	65	11.4
1933	5721		84	14.6	140	87	5	3	35	58	10.1
1934	5714		76	13.3	141	85	9	3	39	65	11.3
1935	5681		61	10.7	145	98	11	2	32	58	10.2
1936	6300		69	10.9	188	144	10	4	58	54	8.5
1937	6348		70	11.0	200	144	12	1	14.2	68	9.2

In 1937 the Death Rate is slightly reduced by the operation of the Registrar General's "comparability factor."

TABLE II.
Diseases notified under Acts and Orders during 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At Ages—Years.								
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-Pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera—Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	9	1	..	2	3	3	..	1	9
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	15	..	4	10	..	1	..	..	15
Typhus Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid Fever & Para-typhoid Relapsing Fever— Continued Fever..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio-myelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	7	..	..	..	1	4	2	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Pneumonia	5	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..
Malaria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	40	1	4	12	4	14	4	1	25

TABLE III.

Deaths Registered during the Calendar Year 1937, classified by age and cause.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages or "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Ttl. Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'non-Residents' in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 & under 25 years	25 & under 45 years	45 & under 65 years	65 and upwards	
All Causes { Certified ...	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
{ Uncertified	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
G.P.I. Tabes, etc. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	7
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	22
Diabetes .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatic Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Aneurysm .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ..	20	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	13	68
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Other Diseases of Respira-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
tory Organs .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ulcer of Stomach and	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Duodenum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(under 2 years) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	22
Senility	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Dis...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Arterio-sclerosis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Dis-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
eases of Pregnancy and	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parturition .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malformation, includ-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ing Premature Birth ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths, excluding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide.....	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	2
Suicide .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	8
Diseases ill-defined or un-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
known .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	68	1	...	...	2	1	6	21	37	153

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY.

1937. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Wks & under 3 Months	3 Mths. & under 6 Months	6 Mths & under 9 Months	9 Mths & under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes { Certified .....1
Uncertified .....0
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Whooping Cough
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Erysipelas
{ Tuberculous Meningitis
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous)
{ Convulsions
{ Laryngitis
{ Bronchitis
{ Pneumonia (all forms)
{ Diarrhoea
{ Enteritis
{ Gastritis
{ Syphilis
{ Rickets
{ Suffocation, overlying
{ Injury at Birth
{ Atelectasis
{ Congenital Malformation
{ Premature Birth	1	...	..	...	1	...	..	..	..	..
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus
{ Other Causes
Totals	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1

Nett Births registered during the calendar year—legitimate 69, illegitimate 1.

Nett Deaths " " " " —legitimate infants 1.
illegitimate infants 0.

Still-births—legitimate 4, illegitimate, 0.

TABLE V.—Notifications of Infectious Diseases.
(No records prior to 1895)

Year	Small-pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Phthisis	Oth'r forms of Tuber- culosis	Pneumonia	TOTAL
1895	...	17	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	21
1896	...	5	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	11
1897	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
1898	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	5
1899	...	62	...	3	1	2	...	...	...	68
1900	...	3	7	2	1	1	...	...	...	14
1901	...	7	5	2	...	1	...	...	...	15
1902	...	2	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	8
1903	4	7	6	1	1	6	...	...	...	25
1904	2	2	7	1	2	3	...	...	...	17
1905	...	2	4	2	2	4	...	...	...	14
1906	...	40	4	8	...	5	...	...	...	57
1907	...	52	4	6	1	1	...	...	...	64
1908	...	10	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	14
1909	...	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	9
1910	...	21	...	37	...	2	...	...	...	60
1911	...	20	...	8	1	...	6	...	...	35
1912	...	6	1	...	...	1	13	...	...	21
1913	...	1	4	1	1	2	11	7	...	27
1914	6	1	1	...	4	4	...	16
1915	...	9	4	1	...	3	6	6	...	29
1916	...	15	4	...	...	6	9	9	...	43
1917	...	39	3	1	...	1	10	2	...	56
1918	...	9	3	...	...	1	5	7	...	25
1919	...	10	3	1	1	1	8	3	...	27
1920	...	4	...	...	3	5	6	1	4	23
1921	...	23	4	1	1	...	7	4	7	47
1922	...	93	44	...	...	...	6	3	4	150
1923	...	24	7	...	...	2	4	1	2	41
1924	...	3	1	...	...	...	4	5	...	15
1925	...	5	19	...	...	...	6	1	...	32
1926	...	2	...	...	1	1	4	1	3	12
1927	...	6	1	...	1	2	4	5	10	30
1928	...	13	4	...	...	1	7	3	5	34
1929	...	11	1	...	...	...	2	3	9	26
1930	...	30	5	...	...	1	5	1	4	49
1931	...	31	4	...	...	1	5	2	2	46
1932	...	6	5	...	...	...	5	1	5	23
1933	...	9	2	...	...	1	6	4	5	27
1934	...	8	6	...	...	1	10	9	3	37
1935	...	10	13	...	...	...	5	2	1	31
1936	...	44	6	...	...	...	2	2	2	56
1937	...	15	9	1	1	1	7	3	5	42

TABLE VI.
Deaths from Special Diseases.

Year	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Diarrhœa	Phthisis	Oth'r For's of Tuber- culosis	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	TOTAL
1895	2	..	4	..	..	..	6
1896	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	6
1897	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	1	..	..	..	10
1898	10	6	..	..	..	16
1899	2	1	1	4	..	1	..	9
1900	2	..	2	3	4	..	1	..	12
1901	2	2	..	3	2	..	..	..	9
1902	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	..	9
1903	1	2	..	3	2	..	..	..	8
1904	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	..	1	..	9
1905	3	..	1	3	..	1	..	8
1906	..	5	1	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	1	12
1907	..	1	1	..	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	8
1908	..	3	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	8
1909	2	..	..	..	2
1910	4	..	5	..	..	1	10
1911	5	1	3	2	..	..	..	11
1912	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	13
1913	4	3	..	..	7
1914	2	..	1	6	2	1	..	12
1915	2	..	..	3	3	..	..	8
1916	1	..	..	1	4	1	..	..	7
1917	1	..	..	1	4	1	..	..	7
1918	..	4	..	1	..	..	2	2	3	..	..	12
1919	2	6	3	..	..	11
1920	1	..	..	8	..	2	..	11
1921	1	3	3	..	..	7
1922	2	3	1	..	..	6	1	..	..	13
1923	6	1	..	1	8
1924	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	9
1925	1	..	1	..	..	2
1926	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	6
1927	1	..	..	1
1928	3	..	..	..	3
1929	1	2	1	..	..	4
1930	5	1	..	..	6
1931	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	4
1932	3	1	..	..	4
1933	3	..	..	..	3
1934	5	1	..	..	6
1935	4	..	..	..	4
1936	2	..	..	..	2
1937	4	..	..	..	4

TABLE VIII.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Tabular Statement of the Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended
December 31st, 1937.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KNUTSFORD.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.	Numbers	B Number of Notices served		C Result of Notices Served			
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions instituted	Prosecutions Pending
1. Dwelling Houses	64	..	5	5	...	...	..
2. Cellar Dwellings	None	in District		...	...	...	...
3. Back-to-Back Houses ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Courts, Yards, Passages, etc.	52	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Privy-Middens, Pails or Earth Closets	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Ashbins	1420	3	80	80	...	...	...
8. House Drainage	24	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Ditches, Watercourses, 28. Samples of Water, 0	28	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Offensive Accumulations... ..	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A. 1875. Section 91 (3) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Offensive Trades	None	in District		...	...	...	...
13. a. Slaughterhouses (Public)	None	in District		..	...	...	...
" (Private)	156	...	1	1	...	...	...
b. Other Places where Food is produced or sold	104	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Piggeries	52	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Cesspools ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. a. Dairies	52	...	...	...	...	...	...
b. Cowsheds	52	...	...	...	...	...	...
c. Milk Shops	26	...	...	...	...	...	...
17. a. Factories	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
b. Workshops	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
c. Workplaces	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
d. Outworkers' Premises... ..	None	in District		...	...	...	...
18. Bakehouses (Overground)	40	..	...	...	...	...	...
" (Underground)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Common Lodging Houses	None	in District		...	...	...	...
20. Houses Let in Lodgings ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Smoke Observations	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Canal Boats	None	in District		...	...	...	...
23. Infectious Diseases	24	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Milk Samples (Biological Test) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Miscellaneous	520	...	10	10	...	...	...
Totals	1678	3	96	96	...	...	...

TABLE IX.
HOUSING STATISTICS.

New houses erected during the year :—

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	17
By Knutsford U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	30
				Total	47

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING
THE YEAR.

- (1) *a.* Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 48
- b.* Number of inspections made for the purpose... 75
- (2) *a.* Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... .. 6
- b.* Number of inspections made for the purpose.. 12
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 5

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR
WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority 5

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWER DURING THE YEAR

A. Proceedings under Sect. 17, 18, and 23, Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | | | |
| | (a) by owners | ... | ... | 0 |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | 0 |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | | |
| | (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

C. Proceedings under Sects. 19 and 20 of Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the room or tenement having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

TABLE X.**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937, for the Urban District of Knutsford.**On the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901,
in connection with**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.****1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspect'ns</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>	<i>Prosecut'ns</i>
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	14	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	48	...	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	24	3	...
Total	76	3	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Number of Defects Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of Prosecut'ns</i>
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness
Want of ventilation
Overcrowding
Want of Drainage of Floors
Other nuisances
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	1	1	...	...
Unsuitable or defective
Not separate for sexes
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s 101)
Other Offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Work- shops Transfers of Powers Order, 1921.)
Total	1	1	...	...

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES. SECTION 103.

None in the District.

(Signed) ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

The Urban District of Knutsford.

PART III.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The district is supplied with water by the Knutsford Light & Water Company, who buy from Manchester Corporation. The water is soft with a low salinity, and is of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity. It has not been considered necessary to take samples of this water during the year. The water mains are flushed periodically and a constant pressure is guaranteed by means of a water tower of 150,000 gallons capacity at a height of 102 feet.

During the year approximately 350 yards of new mains have been laid, extending the supply to thirty-two houses.

Although the supply is a bulk supply from Manchester Corporation, the district has been fortunate in not having to suffer restrictions in time of drought.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All the sewage from the Urban District is carried by gravitating sewers to the disposal works on the north-east boundary of the town, where the treatment has been carried out quite satisfactorily during the past year. Six samples of effluent were taken by Inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Rivers Board and the analysis has shown same to be of good quality.

The Rivers Board have discontinued the practice of issuing a monthly report sheet showing the relative merits of all samples taken, so it is not now possible to give any detailed report of the sample effluent beyond saying that same are all classified as good.

The sewers have been extended to accommodate the new houses in Warren Avenue, entailing the laying of 92 yards of 6in. diameter sewers.

During the year all the manholes on the sewerage scheme have been thoroughly cleansed and the sewers periodically flushed.

An agreement has also been entered into in regard to the emission of trade waste and dyes into the sewers at the Water-proof Paper Works. Special tanks have been constructed and the arrangement is working quite satisfactorily, and has made no difference to the treatment at the outfall works.

A new up-to-date lavatory system has been constructed at the Booth Paper Works, a small electric pump being employed to pump the sewage into the main sewers.

The Council have also installed a supply of electricity to the outfall works, and have purchased a new portable electric pump. This plant has enabled us to carry out a systematic emptying of all the tanks and has considerably improved the quality of the effluent.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING.

All ashbins and pail closets are cleansed weekly, a number of bins at the hotels and large shops being emptied twice weekly. The only ashpits in the district are at the Egerton Schools and the Waterproof Paper Company, neither of which are used for the storage of any objectionable refuse.

The following is a summary of the present position :

Water Closets ...	2325	Slop Water Closets ...	136
Pail Closets... ..	16	Midden Closets... ..	1
Dry Ashpits	2	Ashbins	2000

Number of refuse receptacles emptied :

<i>Month</i>	<i>Dustbins</i>			<i>Pail Closets</i>			<i>Total</i>
January	1954	...	...	22	...	...	1976
February	1954	...	...	22	...	...	1976
March	1995	...	...	22	...	...	2017
April	1995	...	...	20	...	...	2015
May	1995	...	...	20	...	...	2015
June	1995	...	...	20	...	...	2015
July	1995	...	...	20	...	...	2015
August	1995	...	...	18	...	...	2013
September	1995	...	...	18	...	...	2013
October	2000	...	...	16	...	...	2016
November	2000	...	...	16	...	...	2016
December	2000	...	...	16	...	...	2016
	<hr/> 23873			<hr/> 230			<hr/> 24103

During the year the refuse collection cart removed 1,791 loads of refuse to the tip, in addition to which 2,082 loads were taken by other vehicles. The Council's highways motor also removed 86 loads of garden refuse or trade refuse to the tip, making a grand total of 3,959 loads deposited on the tip during the year.

In December the Council purchased a new "Karrier" refuse collection vehicle at a cost of £320. This vehicle is of greater

capacity than any previous vehicle we have had, and has helped to increase the efficiency of the department.

The refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on the Moor, and good progress is being made of the re-claiming of what was once a swamp for use as a recreation ground.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Little or no nuisance is experienced from smoke owing to the absence of factories in the district. There are only five large chimney stacks in the district, and it has only been necessary to complain of one of these during the year.

The Council have under consideration the making of Bye-laws to control the emission of smoke from chimneys.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

No nuisances have arisen in respect of Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., there being only one permanent caravan in the district.

The pitching of tents, caravans, etc., on the small Heath is now kept under very strict control, and little or no nuisance now arises.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

The Council's Cemetery at Tabley Hill, which has been in use for 34 years, provides sufficient burial space for several generations.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the Schools are above suspicion as to the cause of infectious disease. The lavatories and closets are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and all Elementary Schools are disinfected during the summer holidays.

There has been little or no progress made in connection with the two new schools proposed for the district, but it is understood that a commencement will be made within the next twelve months.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

Visits which were made to the upholsterers in the district have not revealed any unclean flock being used in the manufacture of upholstery.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the general inspection of the district four premises were found to be infested with bugs, one of which was in a very bad condition. The infected bedding was destroyed and the whole of the premises thoroughly disinfected and sprayed. Very satisfactory results are recorded, there being no trace of bugs since the premises were re-opened.

PETROLEUM (Consolidation) ACT, 1928.

Licenses were issued for the storage of Petroleum spirit at 13 premises; the total amount for which these licenses were issued was 24,300 gallons.

The amount of fees received by the local authority for the above licenses was £10-5-0.

For the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with a number of visits were paid to petroleum stores and garages.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

During the year plans have been prepared for the erection of new Public Conveniences on the site of the old fire station in Northwich Road. The scheme includes for 10 W.C.s in the ladies' section, and 4 W.C.s and 10 urinal stalls for gentlemen. The existing arrangements are far from sufficient during the holiday seasons, especially at May Day and during the illumination seasons. It is hoped that the new conveniences will be erected ready for the next season.

DISINFECTIONS.

30 premises have been disinfected during the year, of which 24 were after removal of infectious disease and 6 were on account of filth.

All infected bedding is removed to Monsall Hospital for steam disinfection at the same time as each patient is removed.

STREET CLEANSING.

Sweeping of the streets of the town is carried out by workmen in the employ of the Council, the collection and removal of the sweepings being done by hygienic service trucks. The road gullies are emptied periodically and kept free from obstruction.

A thoroughly cleansed street surface is important in town hygiene, but is a matter which many persons do not appear to appreciate, as it is not uncommon to find garden or other refuse deposited on minor roads, and several times it has been necessary to speak to tradesmen who have brushed shop sweepings out or allowed the material from packing cases to blow into the roadway.

ANIMAL AND INSECT PESTS.

The Cheshire County Council are the Authority responsible for the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Complaints respecting infestation are from time to time received ; these are investigated and appropriate advice is given. It was also deemed advisable to call in the services of the County Rat Officer on one occasion, and his advice proved very satisfactory.

The Council's refuse tip is remarkably clear of rodents, less than a dozen rats being caught during the year.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

During the year the Council have adopted new Building Bye-laws, made under the Public Health Act, 1936, and also Bye-laws with respect to new streets made under Section 157 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY, Etc.

During the year the farms and dairies in the district have been visited at various times, and continue to be kept in a satisfactory manner. Alterations have been effected at one farm during the year, and the drains to another farm have been relaid.

The sampling of milk for biological purposes is now undertaken by the County Council Veterinary Staff. The quality of milk sold and produced in the area still continues to be good.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the area have been visited at various times during the year and it has not been necessary to serve any notice in respect of same.

The following is a summary of the people on the Register :

Wholesale Producers	...	...	5
Cowkeepers and Purveyors...	...	...	11
Purveyors	...	...	20
			<hr/> 36

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 12 butchers' shops in the area, and these are inspected periodically. The meat, etc., exposed for sale has always appeared of good quality.

A large amount of meat is imported into the town by butchers from outside areas, and this has perhaps affected the number of animals slaughtered in the district during the last year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The following is a summary of the animals slaughtered in the district during the year :

Beef	227
Mutton... ..	1145
Pork	53
Veal	31
	<hr/>
	1456

The majority of the above were inspected in the slaughterhouses and were generally of good quality. There are 5 licensed slaughterhouses in the district which are well appointed and kept in good condition. One slaughterhouse has been demolished during the year to make way for the new houses in course of erection in the Market Place.

The following meat was condemned, and the reasons for condemnation as follows :

BOVINES.

1 head	tuberculosis.
1 carcase ... 343 lbs. ...	generalised t.b.

PIGS.

1 carcase ... 118 lbs. ...	gangrene.
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SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

During the year the Council issued 7 licenses to local butchers under the above Act, for which a fee of two shillings is charged.

A further request from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals urging the Council to apply the provisions of Section 2 of the Act to the slaughter of sheep was not acceded to.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 12 Bakehouses in use in the district. These premises have been inspected periodically during the year, and notices requesting the occupiers to limewash the walls have been served at stated periods, and as occasion has required. The premises have been kept clean generally, and have been limewashed in accordance with the regulations.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Twenty-six sessions were held at the Centre during the year. 101 children made 615 attendances, giving an average attendance of 23 per session.

The Health Visitor paid 64 first and 294 subsequent visits to expectant mothers, 365 visits to children under one year old, and 1,638 visits to children between one and five years. All these figures are higher than those for 1936. Opportunity offers here to correct a clerical or printer's error in the Report for 1936, where the number of attendances per session was given as 25. It really was 20 per session compared with 23 in 1937.

ANTE-NATAL CARE.

The Ante-Natal Care Scheme has now been in operation for 3 years. The facilities offered under it have been taken advantage of to a greater extent, above 25 per cent. of the mothers having used the service. This is in addition to the before-mentioned 358 visits to expectant mothers by the Health Visitor.

No maternal deaths occurred.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious diseases call for no special comment. The number of scarlet fever cases fell from 44 to 15. Diphtheria notifications are three higher at nine, but of these five were Institution cases. It is now 15 years since a death from scarlet fever or diphtheria, and 27 years since a typhoid death. The enteric case notified in 1937, the first for 16 years, was proved to have contracted the disease outside the area.

PNEUMONIA.

As regards acute lobar pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia the Council have arranged that doctors may send (at the Council's expense) sputum from these cases to Dr. Jenkins, the Pathologist of the Salford Royal Hospital, to be examined as to the type of pneumococcus which is the cause in that particular patient. In cases where the cause is found to be Type 1 pneumococcus, the doctor can obtain free serum for treatment at the Council Offices.

TUBERCULOSIS.

For figures see Tables. The Tuberculosis Register on December 31st, 1937, showed 46 cases as follows :

Pulmonary cases ... Males, 13 ... Females, 11

Non-pulmonary cases ... Males, 12 ... Females, 10

Notification continues satisfactory.

CANCER.

Full facilities are available in Manchester for treatment by radium, etc.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

The slaughter of animals under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925 is administered by the County Council, and no notifications of any slaughterings from this district were received during the year.

No person suffering from tuberculosis was found engaged in food production or distribution.

HOUSING ACT, 1935—OVERCROWDING.

The total number of families living in overcrowded conditions at the time of the survey was 31. By transfers to larger houses, families leaving district, etc., this number was reduced to 13 by November of 1937. The Council erected 30 new houses in Warren Avenue, six of which contain four bedrooms, which (according to the housing standard) accorded accommodation for ten persons. Three overcrowded families were transferred to these houses, and at the end of 1937 only seven cases of overcrowding required abating. The Council have attempted to obtain land at an economic price with a view to building a further number of houses to remove all the remaining cases of overcrowding in the district.

It is very gratifying to know that by the time my next Report comes to be written I shall be able to record a clean sheet as far as overcrowding is concerned.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION (Infectious).

This is unchanged and really excellent.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

This is adequate and unchanged. The County Council Laboratory examined 4 positive and 28 negative tuberculous specimens during 1937.

LOCAL ACTS.—None.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Acts adopted are :

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—All parts.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Parts 2 and 3.

Public Health (Water) Acts, 1878.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 112, as amended by Sec. 51 of the P.H. Amendment Act, 1907.

Public Health Act, 1925—All parts.

Private Street Works Act, 1892—All parts.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is most efficiently carried on by the two District Nurses, who are employed by a Voluntary Committee.

MIDWIVES.

The only Midwives are the two District Nurses —both C.M.B.

GENERAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

In addition to the Infirmary at the Institution of the Public Assistance Committee, the needs of the district are very adequately supplied by the Knutsford Cottage Hospital, the Altrincham General Hospital, and large General and Special Hospitals of Manchester. There is an excellent Orthopædic Department at Altrincham Hospitals.

The Council made monetary grants to the following voluntary hospitals during the year :

Manchester Royal Infirmary,
Salford Royal Infirmary,
St Mary's Hospital,
Manchester Children's Hospital,
Manchester Royal Eye Hospital,
Knutsford and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital.

The Council also made a grant of £10-10-0 towards the Empire Cancer Campaign.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council undertake the removal of any patient requiring ambulance facilities by arrangement with the Altrincham Borough Council.

The Council accept the liability for payment of the Ambulance Account, and recover same from the patient. This service appears to work quite admirably.

SANITARY STAFF.

This is unchanged. I wish to express my appreciation of and thanks for the work of Mr. Butler, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, who has assisted in the compilation of this Report.

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

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